

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

December 11, 2022



the Third Sunday of Advent

What is advent?

Advent is a word that means “coming” or “arrival.” It is a four-week period in which the church looks back to Jesus’ first coming as our Savior, and looks forward to his second coming as our Judge. Just as John the Baptist told the Jewish people to “prepare” for the Lord’s coming, we need to encourage each other to be ready for his coming again, when he will fulfill God’s promises and renew all things. Indeed, the kingdom of God will come “on earth as it is in heaven” – the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, the dead in Christ will rise to new life, and every tear will be wiped away. As Isaiah the prophet says, “Prepare the way for the Lord... The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together” (Isaiah 40:3-5).

Since the fourth century, the Church has celebrated this season of Advent, starting on the fourth Sunday before Christmas day. The celebration of Advent helps us focus our attention on Jesus Christ’s birth and ministry as well as his promised return. Throughout the season we are constantly reminded that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.

Reflection

The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.

- Henri Nouwen

One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God, we are with God all along, that while we need to be reassured of God’s arrival, or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home. While we wait, we have to trust, to have faith, but it is God’s grace that gives us that faith. As with all spiritual knowledge, two things are true, and equally true, at once. The mind can’t grasp paradox; it is the knowledge of the soul.

- Michelle Blake

The Advent season is that time when we seek to, in a manner of speaking, mute our memory of what has already happened, that we might brighten our joy that it happened. We leave the already of His advent to taste the bitter of the not yet. We, in short, go back, that we might look forward to His coming.

- R.C. Sproul

Preparation

*Almighty God, we pray for your blessing
on the church in this place.
Here may the faithful find salvation,
and the careless be awakened.
Here may the doubting find faith,
and the anxious be encouraged.
Here may the tempted find help,
and the sorrowful find comfort.
Here may the weary find rest,
and the strong be renewed.
Here may the aged find consolation
and the young be inspired;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Gathering Song

*We sing as a way of engaging our voices, imaginations, words, and desires in the
worship of God. We sing together, to God and to each other, because of our calling
to be a people joined together in Christ.*

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels!

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus to Thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

John Francis Wade (1743), Trans. by Frederick Oakley (1841)

Welcome

We're glad you are here. If you are visiting with us, please take a moment to fill out a "Connect Card", available in a seat-back near you or online using this QR code. We would love the chance to connect with you and help you know more about our community.



Advent Reading & Call to Worship

Created and Called. We believe that God created humans to be in relationship with Him, and to worship Him as their Creator. But it's more than that. He is also a loving Father who is calling, or inviting His children to come near. God's is both the Creator and the Inviter, and we respond to His grace!

Leader: We worship you, Lord, and magnify you, God our Savior!

**All: Our hearts will not be afraid!
God, you are coming to save your people.**

Leader: The blind will receive their sight,
the lame will walk, the dead will be raised.

**All: Streams will pour forth in the wilderness
and the desert filled with the living water.**

Leader: God will tear down the mighty from their thrones and lift up the lowly.

All: Strengthen our hearts, Lord. Give us a steadfast and firm faith.

Leader: Sorrow and sighing will pass away,
and God will wipe every tear from our eyes.

All: On that day we will be filled with everlasting joy and gladness.

Leader: We wait patiently for you, Lord, because you will fulfill your promises.

All: Your mercy is for those who fear you from generation to generation.

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ is coming and will reign forever.

**All: Praise the Lord! All our hope is in the Lord our God.
Come, Lord Jesus.**

(Light three advent candles)

Leader: We worship you, Lord, and magnify you, God our Savior!

All: Our hearts will not be afraid! God, you are coming to save your people.

*Based on: Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, Luke 1:46b-55,
James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11 (NRSV)*

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
by His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine own sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1744), HYFRDOL (1830)

Confession of Sin

Why do we confess sin? Worship both draws us to God and reveals where we are distant from him. Throughout Scripture, when people see or experience God they are faced with the reality of their own brokenness and shame. Likewise, we confess our sin, as a community and individually.

Almighty God who inhabits eternity
but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit:
before you and our Lord Jesus Christ we confess our sins.
We have ignored the presence of your Spirit.
We have failed to look for the return of our Savior and Judge.
We have been blind to your coming
in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled,
the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned.
In your great goodness put away our offenses
and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake...

*** time for silent confession***

Words of Forgiveness

We are not alone. The Bible teaches that Jesus understands what it is to be human. Because He was fully man, He is compassionate and merciful toward us in our sin and failures. But not only can He sympathize with us, Jesus also has set us free from the power of sin by his death and resurrection.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

Passing of the Peace

Why is the Greeting put after our Words of Forgiveness? The book of 2 Corinthians reminds us that part of God's goal in reconciling Himself to us was that we might likewise be reconciled with one another. But for healing and wholeness to take place in our relationships (which is what the Greeting enacts as we acknowledge one another in the peace of our Lord), we must first know the healing of our relationship with God through Christ. God's pardon of us sets us free to love and forgive one another without reservation or qualification!

Songs of Praise & Thanksgiving

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this the Christ who was long foretold.
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
God Most High in a manger laid, lift your voices and now proclaim;
Great and glorious, Love has come to us, join now with the hosts of heaven!

Come we to welcome Emmanuel, king who came with no crown or throne.
Helpless He lay, the Invincible, maker of Mary, now Mary's son.
O what wisdom to save us all; shepherds, sages, before Him fall.
Grace and majesty, what humility, come on bended knee, adore Him!

Go spread the news of Emmanuel, joy and peace for the weary heart.
Lift up your heads, for your King has come,
sing for the Light overwhelms the dark.
Glory shining for all to see. Hope alive, let the gospel ring.
God has made a way, He will have the praise,
tell the world, His name is Jesus!

Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend, Keith Getty (2015)

Giving of Tithes & Offering

What's the offering all about? *The offering is a way for Christians to support the mission and ministry of the church. Christians offer a sacrificial portion of their resources—time, talents, possessions—as an act of faith and gratitude in response to God's grace. While many at Hope Chapel make their regular contributions through online giving and automated bill pay, offerings are a part of our worship service as an opportunity for the regular, proportionate and generous giving of the resources God has given us.*

If you are a guest, please feel no obligation to give. Giving is for the members and regular attenders who desire to give to God and His church so that we can be a blessing to Him and our community in even greater ways.

Ways to give: *You may drop a check or cash in the offering plate, give online at hopechapelgreensboro.org/give, or give through Venmo to @HopeChapel (note: contributions made through Venmo are not receipted for tax purposes).*



Come Light Our Hearts

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait,
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait,
Truly our hope is in You, truly our hope is in You.

O Lord of life, our only hope,
Your radiance shines on all who look
To You in the dark, Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

O Joy above all other loves,
In you we find more than enough
We come as we are, O heal and restore;
come light our hearts.

Sandra McCracken (2012)

Prayer of Renewal

Church, City, World. Corporate prayer is an essential part of the worship and work of God's people. We pray for specific needs- naming and sometimes lamenting the brokenness in the world- mindful to ask a powerful and merciful help for the Church, the city, the world, and for one another.

The leader will end each section of the prayer by saying "Lord, in Your mercy..." and the congregation responds with "...Hear our prayer".

Scripture Reading

What do we do during the Scripture Reading? Because the Word of God is one of the chief means through which God has chosen to speak to us, it is a principle and direct way we "hear from God" in worship. The public reading of Scripture, then, is a sacred act that deserves our full attention and focus. Especially in our age, we must discipline ourselves to listen to readings for longer periods of time, for God's Word is food for our soul.

Luke 2:8-21

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Sermon

"Light of the World"

Todd Jones is Hope Chapel's founding/lead pastor. This sermon is part of a series called "The Greatest Story", where we are surveying the entire Bible using The Jesus Storybook Bible as a framework. For past sermons, please visit our website.

Communion

What Is Communion? What we do during communion isn't merely a symbolic act or a remembrance—it's more than that. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 teaches us that we are actually communing with Christ Himself as we partake of the elements. We mysteriously "participate in the body and blood" of Jesus. As we take communion, let us remember that Christ is spiritually present in a special way for us in this sacrament. Let's enjoy the feast!

If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal, please feel free to not participate and instead spend this time in prayer ("Prayers for Reflection" are included in this worship guide). We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church. PLEASE NOTE: All bread is gluten-free.

Communion Litany

Minister: The Lord be with you. **All: and also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts. **All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Minister: And now we give you thanks because Christ was born a child
 into a line of broken and sinful people, a royal house lying in ruins.
 In righteousness he will judge the world,
 as the one who gives us himself—his body and his blood—
 for our righteousness and peace and for the rebuilding of his kingdom.

**All: And so we gladly thank you,
 joining our voices with your people on earth
 and all the company of heaven,
 who forever sing to the glory of your Name.**

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

*** Institution of the elements ***

Minister: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Minister: As our Savior taught us, so we pray,

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For yours is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayers for Reflection

Prayer for Those Searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and faithfully follow you in life. Amen.

Prayer for Renewal and Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism, to love God and neighbor, and to a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, to pursue forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace, and to live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

“Fear not!” said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind!

To you in David’s house this day
Is born of David’s line
The Savior who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign:

The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands
And in a manger laid”

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Christ is born!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Christ is born!

“All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from God to man
Begin and never cease!”

Bob Kauflin and Lisa Clow (2020)

Sending Song

Glory to God

Glory to God on high,
Let heav’n and earth reply, “Praise His name!”
His love and grace adore,
Who all our sorrows bore, praise His name!

Sing aloud evermore: Worthy is the Lamb!
Sing aloud evermore: Worthy is the Lamb!

Jesus, our Lord and God,
 Bore sin's tremendous load, praise His name!
 Tell what His arm has done,
 What spoils from death he won, praise His name!

Let all the hosts above
 Join in one song of love, praise His name!
 To Him ascribed be
 Honor and majesty, praise His name!

*James Allen (1831), Ryan Bowles, Charlie Swing,
 Todd Van Patter, Michael Van Patter (2009)*

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

What is the benediction? Benediction is a word with Latin origin (bene = "well," and dicere = "to speak"); a benediction is a word which "speaks wellness/goodness" to us, therefore properly understood as a blessing. The benediction in worship has ancient roots, going back to the worship of God's people in the Temple. When we utilize the benediction in our worship, we connect ourselves with an ancient practice of God's people and join with them together in worship of our one great God.

Minister: Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you,
 Scatter the darkness from before your path,
 And make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
 And the blessing of God almighty,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 Be among you, and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$14,407	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to Date	\$573,300	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Dec. 4)		Hope Chapel
Given to Date	\$598,338	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$25,038	Greensboro, NC 27408

Online giving is available on our website: www.hopechapelgreensboro.org/give
 We also accept donations via Venmo: @HopeChapel.

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Want to connect with others?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/community

Visiting with us?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/i'm-new

